

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) on Friday voted to pass the House version of the appropriations bill that will fund the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor and Health and Human Services. The House version of the bill includes two projects targeted at reducing violence in Monterey County.

"Too many families continue to live in fear of gang violence in Salinas," said Rep. Farr. "The Silver Star program is a key piece of the fight against gangs, keeping children and young men and women from joining gangs in the first place. I'm pleased that Congress continues to see just how important this program is for our communities."

Local projects included in the bill:

- Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention Program: \$750,000. The Silver Star program uses a multi-agency, collaborative model of prevention and early intervention services to avert and reduce gang association, membership and activities. The program combines probation supervision; educational, vocational and job training; counseling services; truancy abatement; mentoring; community mobilization and outreach; and family support services to gang-involved or at-risk youth. Since 2005, Rep. Farr has secured more than \$2.8 million for the program.

- YWCA Integrated Community Collaborative to Prevent Domestic Violence Program: \$250,000. Funding for the Integrated Community Collaborative to Prevent Domestic Violence would allow the YWCA of Monterey County to expand its direct services for victims of domestic violence in Salinas. These services include individual counseling and safety planning, support groups, trauma based counseling services (in English and Spanish), legal services including provision of restraining orders, court accompaniment, and shelter for victims and families.

In addition to projects on the Central Coast, the legislation includes a range of other national programs including:

- Title I Grants for Low-Income Children: \$14.5 billion. Funds will help school districts provide services to 20 million disadvantaged children in nearly 55,000 public schools.
- Individuals with Disabilities Act: \$11.5 billion. The funds support education for 6.7 million students with disabilities.
- Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Activities: \$1.4 billion. Supports training and services for workers affected by mass layoffs and plant closures.

- Community Health Centers: \$2.2 billion. Provides primary health care to 17 million patients, of whom 40 percent are uninsured.
- Head Start: \$7.2 billion. Provides early childhood services to approximately 978,000 low-income children.

The bill, which passed by a vote of 264-153, awaits Senate consideration. Once the Senate acts, the two versions will be reconciled, then sent to the president for signature.

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